REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed June 21, 2005, the Examiner noted that claims 1-13 were pending, and rejected claims 1-13. Claims 1, 6 and 10-13 have been amended, and, thus, in view of the forgoing claims 1-13 remain pending for reconsideration which is requested. No new matter has been added. The Examiner's rejections are traversed below.

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-5 and 7-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as anticipated by Guo. On page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-5 and 7-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as anticipated by Kajihara. Page 4 of the Office Action rejects claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Kajihara.

Guo discusses a system that omits test vectors from a sequence, restores the vectors in reverse order until a desired target fault is detected and the target faults are covered one at a time in this way. Each time a fault simulation is performed. After all of the target faults are covered, then one at a time vectors are eliminated and if fault coverage is not maintained in another simulation the vector is restored. If the fault coverage is maintained the vector is not restored. This allows the test sequence to be reduced in length. In all phases of the Guo, test fault simulation is performed.

In contrast, in the present invention (see claims 1 and 10-13), a set of test stimuli are used in a "simulation" to trace faults to map between test stimuli and faults. Then, "after" this simulation based fault mapping, essential test stimuli are selected ("selecting") where an essential stimuli is one that detects a fault no other stimuli can detect. Then, "after" essential stimuli are selected, redundant stimuli are eliminated by examining "subsets" of stimuli where a redundant stimuli is one that is detectable by another stimulus in each subset.

That is, simulation is performed in the first phase and not in the later phases in contrast to Guo. And no essential stimuli selection or redundant stimuli elimination is performed in Guo.

Guo is not particularly relevant to the present invention.

Kajihara discusses a system in which a pair of test vectors is replaced by a new test vector after redundant test vectors have been eliminated from a test set.

In contrast as discussed above, the present invention simulates to map stimuli and faults, selects essential stimuli and eliminates redundant stimuli.

Kajihara is also not particularly relevant to the present invention.

It is submitted that the invention of the claims distinguishes over the prior art and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

It is submitted that the claims are not taught, disclosed or suggested by the prior art. The claims are therefore in a condition suitable for allowance. An early Notice of Allowance is requested.

If any further fees, other than and except for the issue fee, are necessary with respect to this paper, the U.S.P.T.O. is requested to obtain the same from deposit account number 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: _____ 9/20/15 _____   By: _____
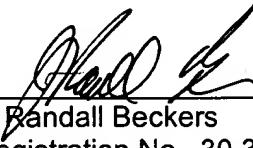
J. Randall Beckers
Registration No. 30,358

1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501